

CLAIMS

1. A publication delivery system comprising:
a printing mechanism for printing a publication; and
a response system that monitors activity around a physical location of

5 the publication delivery system, wherein timing and number of printed publications printed by the printing mechanism is based on the activity detected by the response system.

2. A publication delivery system as in claim 1 wherein the publication
10 delivery system is a kiosk and the publication is a newspaper.

3. A publication delivery system as in claim 1 wherein the response
system includes a microphone that is used to monitor noise level.

4. A publication delivery system as in claim 1 wherein the response
15 system includes an optical sensor to detect movement near the publication delivery system.

5. A publication delivery system as in claim 1 wherein the response
20 system includes a motion detector used to detect movement near the publication delivery system.

6. A publication delivery system as in claim 1 additionally comprising:
network access, the print delivery system using the network access to
25 update content of the publication.

7. A publication delivery system as in claim 1 additionally comprising:
a storage area for storing printed publications; and,
a time stamp reader for reading a time stamp on a most recently
30 printed publication stored in the storage area, wherein the print delivery system uses the time stamp to determine freshness of the most recently printed publication stored in the storage area.

8. A publication delivery system as in claim 7 wherein the time stamp is a bar code and the time stamp reader is a bar code reader.

9. A method for distributing a publication by an automated kiosk,
5 comprising the following steps:

(a) in response to a customer ordering a publication, performing the following substeps by the kiosk:

(a.1) checking a time stamp on a most recently printed publication stored in a storage area,

10 (a.2) determining whether a fresher version of the printed publication is electronically available,

(a.3) when in substep (a.2) it is determined that a fresher version of the printed publication is not electronically available, delivering to the customer the most recently printed publication stored in the storage area,
15 and

(a.4) when in substep (a.2) it is determined that a fresher version of the printed publication is electronically available and the customer indicates a willingness to wait for printing, obtaining the fresher version of the printed publication, and printing out the fresher version of the publication for
20 delivery to the customer.

10. A method as in claim 9 wherein substep (a.2) comprises the following substeps:

contacting, by the kiosk, an electronic publisher of the publication,
25 wherein the electronic publisher performs the following substeps:

comparing a checksum for a most recently generated version of the publication with a checksum for the most recently printed publication stored in the storage area, and

indicating to the kiosk the results of the comparison.

11. A method as in claim 9 wherein the time stamp is a bar code and substep (a.1) is performed with use of a bar code reader.

12. A method for distributing a publication by an automated publication delivery system, comprising the following steps:

(a) monitoring activity around a physical location of the automated publication delivery system; and,

(b) in response to detection of an increased activity level around the physical location of the automated publication delivery system, printing additional copies of the publication for distribution.

13. A method as in claim 12 wherein the automated publication delivery system is a kiosk and the publication is a newspaper.

14. A method as in claim 12 wherein in step (a) monitoring is performed using a microphone to monitor noise level.

15. A method as in claim 12 wherein in step (a) monitoring is performed using an optical sensor to detect movement near the automated publication delivery system.

16. A method as in claim 12 wherein in step (a) monitoring is performed using a motion detector to detect movement near the automated publication delivery system.

17. A method as in claim 12, additionally comprising the following steps:

(c) in response to a customer requesting the publication, performing the following substeps:

(c.1) checking a time stamp on a most recently printed publication stored in a storage area,

(c.2) determining whether a fresher version of the printed publication is electronically available,

(c.3) when in substep (c.2) it is determined that a fresher version of the printed publication is not electronically available, delivering to the customer the most recently printed publication stored in the storage area, and

5 (c.4) when in substep (c.2) it is determined that a fresher version of the printed publication is electronically available, obtaining the fresher version of the printed publication, and printing out the fresher version of the publication for delivery to the customer.

10 18. A method as in claim 12 wherein substep (c.2) comprises the following substeps:

contacting, by the automated publication delivery system, an electronic publisher of the publication, wherein the electronic publisher performs the following substeps:

15 comparing a checksum for a most recently generated version of the publication with a checksum for the most recently printed publication stored in the storage area, and

indicating to the automated publication delivery system the results of the comparison.

20 19. A method as in claim 12 wherein the time stamp is a bar code and substep (c.1) is performed with use of a bar code reader.

25 20. A method as in claim 12 additionally comprising the following step:
(c) using network access by the automated print delivery system to update content of the publication.

30 21. A publication delivery system comprising:
a printing mechanism for printing a publication;
a response system that monitors activity around a physical location of the publication delivery system, wherein timing and number of printed publications printed by the printing mechanism is based on the activity detected by the response system;

a storage area for storing printed publications; and,
a time stamp reader for reading a time stamp on a most recently
printed publication stored in the storage area, wherein the print delivery
system uses the time stamp to determine freshness of the most recently
5 printed publication stored in the storage area;

wherein in response to a customer requesting the publication, the time
stamp reader checks a time stamp on a most recently printed publication
stored in a storage area to determine whether a fresher version of the printed
publication is electronically available and when a fresher version of the printed
10 publication is electronically available, obtains the fresher version of the printed
publication, and prints the fresher version out on the printing mechanism for
delivery to the customer.

22. A publication delivery system as in claim 21 wherein the customer
15 is given an option to wait for printing out of the fresher version of the
publication or to immediately receive an already printed copy of the
publication.

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